

Appl. No. 10/750,024
Amdt. Dated August 23, 2006
Reply to Advisory Action of July 19, 2006

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REMARKS

Paragraph [0019] of the specification; and claims 1, 8, 16 and 17 have been amended for clearer definition over the art of record. Support for the changes to Paragraph [0019]; and claims 1, 8, 16 and 17 can be found in the drawings and within the specification (e.g., Paragraph [0022]), as originally filed.

Additionally, claims 18-20 are newly added in the current amendment. Support for the addition of claims 18-20 can be found within the Paragraph [0018] of the specification, as originally filed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by French et al. (US 4,924,356; hereinafter French et al '356).

Responsive to the rejection thereto, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8 and 16, and hereby traverse this rejection and submit that independent claims 1, 8 and 16 are novel, unobvious, and patentable over French et al '356, or any of the other cited references,

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taken alone or in combination.

Claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

a color filter disposed on and adjacent to the emitting surface, the color filter comprising a color layer for a full color display and a light shielding film, the light shielding film covering the color layer, the light shielding film being configured for shielding the color layer from ultraviolet wavelength light beams and for thereby preventing propagation of such ultraviolet wavelength light beams to the color layer.

Similarly, claim 8, as amended, recites in part:

a color filter disposed on and adjacent to the emitting surface of the light guide plate, the color filter comprising a color layer for a full color display and a light shielding film, the light shielding film covering the color layer, the light shielding film being configured for shielding the color layer from ultraviolet wavelength light beams and for thereby preventing propagation of such ultraviolet wavelength light beams to the color layer.

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Likewise, claim 16, as amended, recites in part:

a color filter is disposed between the back light source and the liquid crystal panel, the color filter being adjacent to the emitting surface of said light guide plate, the color filter comprising a color layer for a full color display and a light shielding film, the light shielding film covering the color layer, the light shielding film being configured for shielding the color layer from ultraviolet wavelength light beams and for thereby preventing propagation of such ultraviolet wavelength light beams to the color layer.

Applicants submit that French et al. '356 does not teach, disclose, or suggest "...a light shielding film covering the color layer, the light shielding film configured for shielding the color layer from ultraviolet wavelength light beams and for thereby preventing propagation of such ultraviolet wavelength light beams to the color layer", as particularly forth in amended claim 1, 8, and 16.

French et al. '356 teaches that a "reflector 13 is included in the

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light box 11 and also has a highly and diffusely reflective surface ... the reflector 13 includes a plurality of slots, or apertures, which transmit light from the light box 11 to the viewing screen of the display device 10" (Column 2, lines 34-39). As such, Applicant realizes that the non-slotted portions of the reflector 13 could potentially reflect and thus shield a portion of the transmission of UV light to the color layer 26 R, B, G. However, such reflector is not a full shield film, given its slots and/or apertures. Accordingly, the reflector 13, when considered as a whole, is incapable of preventing propagation of such ultraviolet wavelength light beams to the color layer, instead clearly permitting for the potential transmission of at least some UV light to reach the color layer of the display device 10 of French et al. '356, via the slots and/or apertures therein.

Meanwhile, one of ordinary skill in the art would be led to believe that a reflector 13, without any slotted portions, covering the filters 26R, 26G, and/or 26B would prevent any light from reaching such filters. As such, it would not have been obvious to eliminate the slotted portions from the reflector 13, since doing so would effectively render inoperative the device of French et al. '356 (MPEP §2143.01 – RE:

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rendering a device unsatisfactory for an intended purpose thereof). As such, Applicant submits that French et al. '356 fails to teach or suggest each and every claimed element of amended claims 1, 8, and/or 16.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that such a light guide plate, as set forth in claim 1, as currently amended, such a surface light source, as set forth in claim 8, as currently amended, and such a surface light source system, as set forth in claim 16, as currently amended, is novel, unobvious, and patentable over French et al. '356, or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowable.

Claims 2, and 4-7 depend on claim 1; claims 9, and 11-15 depend on claim 8; and claim 17 depend on claim 16, and therefore should also be allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 7, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over French et al '356.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 7, 14 and 15, Applicants

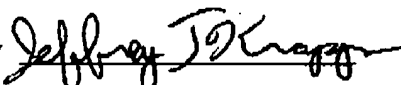
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submit that claim 7 depends on allowable independent claim 1, claims 14 and 15 depend on allowable independent claim 8, and thus such claims should also be allowable.

Newly added claims 18-20 are directly or indirectly dependent from claims 16, and therefore claims 18-20 should be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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